

# ***TELECOMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION MEETING***

**MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 2014**

## **MINUTES**

- 1. Call to order – 7:00 P.M.**
- 2. Roll call (Introductions as necessary) Present - Russ Moulton, Tom Gregory, Katie Hulse-Lawlor, Pamela Yeung, Brian Roinestad, Absent - Jim Minor,**
- 3. Presentations by the public (3-minute limit per speaker)**
  - **Citizen names added to minutes (address, telephone and email addresses to be redacted before publishing)**
  - **Brief remarks from the Commission at the conclusion of last citizen-speaker (optional)**
- 4. Approval of minutes from previous Commission meeting – Mr. Gregory moved to accept minutes as amended. The minutes were accepted unanimously 5-0.**
- 5. Agenda additions/adjustments - None**
- 6. Old Business (including members' general concerns)**
  - **Charles Thomas from CVTV made a presentation regarding his response to an RFI for a third peg channel..**
  - **Chris Chandler from Advanced Media made a presentation regarding his response to an RFI for a third peg channel.**
  - **Mr. Gregory moved that the TCC recommend to the Board of Supervisors that a Request for Proposal be developed and issued for a third peg channel. Mr. Roinestad seconded. The vote was unanimous, 5-0.**
- 7. New Business**

- **The TCC agreed to have Mr. Moulton send an email to the Planning Commission and Board of Supervisors regarding their recommendation on the cell tower in Brooke Point. Below is the language sent.**

*Deputy County Administrator Mr. Keith Dayton asked the Telecommunications Commission for comment on the proposed Conditional Use Permit for a Verizon Wireless cell tower at Brooke Point, particularly in regards to it's compliance with the telecommunications portion of the County's Comprehensive Plan.*

*Please see below an assessment by TCC Vice Chairman Mr. Tom Gregory.*

*The TCC supports appropriately-placed cell towers in Stafford to expand much-needed broadband and other telecommunications services to underserved areas of Stafford. While we do not oppose this CUP per se, we do have some concerns highlighted below in Mr. Gregory's email.*

*In summary:*

*First, the telecommunications portion of the Comprehensive Plan lists a set of priority sites for tower placements. This site appears to be on the lower end of that priority scale, when there exists nearby County-owned and Dominion Power right-of-way sites capable of hosting a tower or cells that might very well meet Verizon's needs for expanding service to VRE and other local customers. (ie. County landfill property and power-line stanchions that could possibly host cells in lieu of erecting a new tower).*

*Second, the proposed Milestone agreement that the TCC has been advocating is an excellent vehicle for promoting site locations closer to the priorities of the Comprehensive Plan. Perhaps if it had been in place, these higher-priority sites might have been entertained by this carrier to expand needed services. While it is not our intention to compete with private landowners, the proposed Milestone agreement helps promote the priority site locations listed in the Comprehensive plan, and gives the County greater overall influence in the site proposal/selection process driven by the private sector.*

*In the meantime, should the proposed Brooke Point site not be approved, as Mr. Gregory points out below, there are alternate sites available higher on the priority list of the Comprehensive Plan.*

*Third, it is important to note that the FCC has enacted rules that speed up the process for tower siting. The new rules give state and local jurisdictions a deadline of 90 days to process collocation applications and 150 days for new telecommunications facility applications. We mention this so that passage of time does not somehow result in a CUP approval by default.*

## **8. Discussion items: None**

9. **Adjournment** Mr. Gregory moved to adjourn at 8:45 p.m. Ms. Hulse-Lawlor seconded. Vote was unanimous to adjourn, 5-0.